

# Section 1

## Supplemental Environmental Projects Program Overview

### 1.1 Background

As a result of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1986, along with the National CSO Control Policy issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1994, municipalities nationwide were directed to reduce or eliminate untreated CSO discharges to the nation's waterways. In 1995, the City of Manchester submitted to the EPA and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) a recommended Long-Term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan addressing the City's 26 CSOs. Based on this plan, the City and the EPA entered into a CSO Compliance Order (CO) dated March 15, 1999 for control of the City's CSO discharges.

This CO adopted a phased approach. Phase I required the City to proceed with several combined sewer system projects including sewer separation of fourteen CSO drainage basins, flow monitoring, a comprehensive assessment of the Cemetery Brook CSO basin, CSO treatment pilot studies, and implementation of the Supplemental Environmental Projects Program (SEPP). To date, nine drainage areas have been separated and nine CSOs eliminated. The requirements of Phase II of the CSO program

***Our economy and our environment are inextricably linked. This innovative environmental project involving state, federal and local organizations will make Manchester a more attractive place to work, live and do business. – Mayor Robert Baines (Manchester's Environmental Challenge SEPP Brochure, Sept 2000)***



*Through the SEPP, field trips familiarized Manchester's eighth grade students with the local environment.*

will be determined after the requirements of Phase I have been completed in 2009.

This report summarizes the funds expended and the successes achieved as a result of SEPP implementation.

The SEPP was a cooperative effort between the City of Manchester, NHDES, and the EPA Region I – New England to provide environmental benefits to the people of Manchester in addition to the benefits expected from combined sewer overflow abatement. The SEPP included tasks related to land preservation, stormwater management, streambank stabilization, urban pond restoration, reduction of environmental health risk to children and environmental education.

### 1.2 Schedule and Goals

The SEPP Workplan was submitted for review in September 1999. The entire program was scheduled, at that time, to be completed by March 15, 2004. During implementation of the program, extensions were required for several projects such that the final completion date of the SEPP is December 31, 2006.

The goal of the SEPP was to achieve greater environmental and public health benefits by implementing a broad-based environmental protection program in conjunction with infrastructure improvements to abate CSOs. By including the SEPP in the City's overall CSO mitigation plans, additional direct benefits to the residents and the environment were achieved.

Each project within the SEPP had specific goals to be achieved. These are discussed in the individual sections of this report.

### 1.3 Executive and Advisory Committees

The SEPP Executive Committee was conceived to monitor implementation of the SEPP program. This committee consisted of the Mayor of the City of Manchester, the Region I – New England Administrator for the USEPA, and the Commissioner of the NHDES.

Day to day administration of the program was overseen by an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the City, NHDES, the USEPA, and other partnering groups, such as Amoskeag Fishways and The Nature Conservancy.

### 1.4 Budget

The SEPP budget, as originally conceived in the 1999 Workplan, is found in the "Preliminary Budget" column of Table 1-1.

Over the life of the program, some

adjustments were made in the funding distribution between projects. This possibility was foreseen and allowed in the Workplan, provided adjustments were approved by the Executive Committee. The final expenditure for each project is given in the "Final City Budget" column in the table below. Details for the expenditure of these funds are found in the individual chapters of this report.

### 1.5 Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction

A brief summary of CSO abatement in Manchester is provided below as it is of interest due to the connection between the SEPP and the CSO abatement work.

The Phase I achievements completed to date included:

- Eliminated 6 out of 8 overflows on the Piscataquog River. Only the Third Street CSO and West Side Pump Station CSOs remain;
- Eliminated 3 overflows along the Merrimack River (Victoria Street, West Bridge Street and West Hancock Street);
- Completed secondary treatment bypass

	Preliminary City Budget	Final City Budget	Leveraged Funds	Total Expenditure
Land Preservation	\$2.0 Million	\$2,306,100	\$187,600	\$2,493,700
Stormwater Management	\$1.0 Million	\$946,500	\$200,000	\$1,146,500
Streambank Stabilization	\$1.0 Million	\$393,891	\$74,180	\$468,071
Urban Pond Restoration	\$1.0 Million	\$688,621	\$99,150	\$787,771
Joint Ponds and Streambank Projects	\$0	\$397,297	(included in ponds & streambanks)	\$397,297
Health Risk Reduction	\$500,000	\$499,691	\$149,400	\$649,091
Environmental Education	\$100,000	\$252,100	\$75,525	\$327,625
Final SEPP Reporting	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
SEPP Endowment Fund	\$0	\$97,800	\$0	\$97,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.6 Million</b>	<b>\$5.6 Million</b>	<b>\$785,855</b>	<b>\$6,385,855</b>

**Table 1-1**  
**City Budget and Leveraged Funds**

modifications at the Manchester Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

- Completed further assessment of the alternatives available to control CSOs in the Cemetery Brook, Stark Brook, Penacook Street and Turner/Ferry Street CSO drainage basins.

## 1.6 Leveraged Funding

The City agreed to spend \$5.6 million for the SEPP. However, additional funds became available to the individual projects through generous donors and grantors who believed in the benefits of the work being done and through volunteers' in-kind donations of time and skill. These donations are detailed in the individual sections of this report and summarized in Table 1-1 above.

Note that not all leveraged funds are quantifiable. Some, such as office space and supplies for SEPP staff (such as the Urban Ponds Restoration Program Coordinator and the Toxicologist) were not quantified and are therefore not included in the table. The leveraged fund total could be much higher than the given amount, if all leveraged funds could have been quantified.

Manchester's environment, surface water, and children's health, received almost \$726,000 of project implementation and study above and beyond that funded by the City, as a direct result of SEPP implementation.

Other, indirect results (such as improved stewardship as a result of greater education, or reduced medical bills as a result of improved indoor air quality) are expected benefits that are not included in this dollar value.

## 1.7 Endowment Fund

The advisory committee recommended that \$97,800 of unspent funds be set aside in an endowment to support the continuation of

ongoing programs, such as Urban Pond Restoration and Environmental Education. The fund will be administered by the Environmental Protection Division of Manchester with support from the Advisory Committee.

## 1.8 Summary

Overall, the SEPP was a great success for the citizens and environment of Manchester. The City completed the financial and administrative requirements while achieving important measurable and lasting benefits for the residents. The details of the benefits achieved are summarized in the following sections.



*Through the SEPP, the City of Manchester had flexibility to address such disparate challenges as CSOs and health risk reduction for children.*